



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1834
Sacramento, CA 95825
www.ca.blm.gov

JUL 07 2006

In Reply Refer To:
CA 43098
2200P
CA 360

Randall Hauser
Shasta Resources Council
3179 Bechelli Lane, Suite 100
Redding, CA 96002

Dear Mr. Hauser

This letter is in response to your letter dated June 19, 2006 which states your continued interest in acquiring a federal parcel, commonly known as "Area 51," in Shasta County, California. As you are aware, a decision to approve the exchange was issued April 26, 2006. A copy of the Environmental Assessment/Decision Record is available for reference online at www.blm.gov/ca/redding. In accordance with our regulations, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provided 45 days for public protests, which ended June 19, 2006. Those protests are currently being reviewed and I will be responding to each one in the near future.

Through this extensive exchange decision-making process, BLM has carefully considered every reasonable alternative or proposal. Among the several alternatives considered, selling the federal parcel to another interested party was thoroughly analyzed. The April decision concluded that an exchange, rather than sale of the public land, was in the public's interest (see Decision Record, #2 Alternatives Considered). We are therefore unable to consider your proposal to purchase for the reasons stated in the Decision Record.

Thank you for your interest in this issue and we appreciate your participation in the public process. BLM hopes to make a final decision on the exchange soon. Please contact Steve Anderson, our Redding Field Office Manager, at (530) 224-2100 if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mike Pool
State Director